

Capital of Northern Ireland: Belfast

Languages: English, Irish

Religions: Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Church of Ireland, Methodist, Other

Population: 1,691,824 (1999)

Population Below The National Poverty Line): Not Available

GDP (at market prices): Not Available

GDP per Capita: \$13,685 (1998)

First Minister: David Trimble

Deputy First Minister: Seamus Mallon

Ambassador to U.S.: Christopher J.R. Meyer

Capital of Ireland: Dublin

Languages: English, Irish

Religions: Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland, Other

Population: 3,836,400 (2001 estimate)

Population Below National Poverty Line: 10%

GDP (at market prices): \$86.3 billion (2001 est.)

GDP Per Capita: \$27,300 (2001 est.)

President: Mary McAleese

Prime Minister: Bertie Ahern

Ambassador to U.S.: Noel Fahey



National Interest: The primary U.S. interest is promoting an end to sectarian conflict in Northern Ireland. This issue remains a major preoccupation for both the Irish and British governments and a source of instability in western Europe. Deep ties of kinship, culture, history and shared values coupled with increasingly important economic and commercial interests also underpin the long-standing U.S. determination to help bring about a lasting settlement. The full implementation of the April 10, 1998, Good Friday Agreement, presently at an impasse over the issues of decommissioning of weapons and reform of the Northern Ireland police force, would serve not only to stabilize political structures but would also serve to unleash important economic potential now untapped.

OVERVIEW OF USAID'S FOCUS IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND IRELAND

FY 03: Total ESF - \$29.0 million, USAID Total - \$25.0 million

International Fund for Ireland (IFI): USAID administers USG assistance to the IFI, which was established on December 1, 1986 pursuant to an Agreement between the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The objectives of the Fund are to promote economic and social advancement and to encourage contact, dialogue and reconciliation between nationalists and unionists. Implementation of those objectives is achieved through projects financed and overseen by the Fund. The Anglo-Irish Agreement Support Act of 1986, as amended, authorizes U.S. contributions to the Fund. To date, the United States has contributed a total of \$371.17 million in Economic Support Fund (ESF) monies to the Fund. Monetary support is provided for Northern Ireland and six border counties in the Republic of Ireland. Since 1992, USAID has prepared the Presidential Certification package to Congress indicating that the Fund is in compliance with statutory requirements for the obligation and disbursement of funds.

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Web site: http://www.usaid.gov/locations/erurope_eurasia/countries/ie